RAJYA SABHA

Friday. 20th December, 19S5|29 *Agrahayana** 1907 *(.Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the Clock. Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Consumer price resistance movement

*461. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES he pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to encourage consumer price resistance movement to effectively check, price rise;

(b) if so, what are the specific measures which Government propose to take in this respect; and

(c) whether Government propose to give financial assistance to voluntary bodies
engaged in the consumer price resistance movement *o,.* set up citizeng representa tive committees to organise such move ment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) \ Statement is laid on the Tabl# of the House.

Statement

In order to encourage the voluntary consumer movement, the Government has taken variou$_s$ measures including setting up a Consumer Protection Council to advise the Government on measures for j consumer protection, holding workshops and seminars for creating consumer's awareness and giving financial grants to voluntary consumer organisations. Effective check on price rise can be met by skillful supply management. Th$_e$ State Governments have been advised to enforce important consumer's protection law$_s$ such as Essential Commodities Aot, 1955, Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976, Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodity) Rules, 1977, Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1954. The public distribution system and cooperative network are being strengthened and monitored. Brochures on adulteration and weights and measures hav$_e$ been issued for *I* education of the consumers. The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations hav$_e$ been advised to create cell to receive complaints of consumers and to act on tlibse complaints. Delhi Administration has recently set up a Directorate of Consumers Affairs for receiving complaints. State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been addressed to organise and activate voluntary consumers' movement. In order to make legal anj adrainistrativ$_e$ measures includ-monitoring more effective and for better involvement of public $_a$nd voluntary bodies in the movement, the Government i of India will b$_e$ organising an All India Seminar of Voluntary Consumers' Organi-sations in lanuary, 1986.

OR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI; Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister which are the voluntary organisations to whom financial grants have been given and what is the quantum of such financial grants?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO; Sir, thei: number nm$_s$ into more than five hundred. Would you like me to read ont the entire list?

MR. CHAIRMAN. You mention two Of three and then say that the entire list is there.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO; Sir, I can lay a copy o$_n$ the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN; Very good. A statement will be laid on the Table of the House. What is your second supplementary?

DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI. I would like to know from the Minister in how many State$_s$ and Union territories such voluntary organisations have been set up.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, there are more than 500 organisations and they

aro spread over all the States. What other information doe$_s$ he require? Most of the States hare such organisations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are just asking fo$_r$ the list. What exactly is the information that you want.

DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI; In ihow many States and Union territories such organisations have bee$_n$ set trp?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I$_n$ the list which you,are giving, lt will contain everything.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : सभापति महोदय, दिल्ली प्रशासन ने अभी हाल ही में एक उपभोक्ता निदेशालय की स्थापना की है । मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि इसका ढांचा क्या है? (**व्यवधान**) मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि अभी हाल ही में दिल्ली प्रशासन ने जो उपभोक्ता निदेशालय की स्थापना की है उसका ढांचा किस प्रकार का है ?

SHRI K. P. SrNGH DEO: Sir, so far as ihe one which has been set ^{U}P $^{\wedge n}$ Delhi is concerned, the newspapers carry out every day information about the consumer protection by the Delhi Administration. If you want, I can also put that in the statement and lay it on the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN. Do you want the scheme or any particular aspect?

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Sir, my question is about the set-up of the Directorate.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: That is exactly what I am saying. I cannot say it in a couple of words. If you want, 1 can place It o$_n$ the Table of the Home.

MR. CHAIRMAN. You place it o$_n$ the Table of the House.'

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government feave issued any guidelines to these organisations as to on which items they should spend thg money and whether any machinery is there to $_s$ee that the moneys are property spent. Secondly, Sir, as we all know the tribal people are the most exploited section by the shopkeepers and as such whether there arc any organisations in the tribal areas to cater to iheii needs, and, if not, whether th$_e$ Govemment proposes to have mobile vans to cater to the needs of (he tribal people?

SHRl K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, so far as the first part of the question is concerned, the reply is contained in the statement that I hav$_e$ given in answer to the question. As far as mobile vans are concerned, we do give help to the State Governments for mobile vans if and when the request comes $_a$nd wherever it is in j the scheme.

SHRl SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH. Sir, for the purpose of consumer protection so many Acts tiave been passed and put into force and these ar© mentioned in the Statement. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the outcome of these Acts and what is ihe result of these enforcements and how many prosecutions hav$_e$ been launched and what is their result? Secondly, a cell has been created to receive the complaints of consumers and take action on those complaints. I would like to know how man} complaints hav$_e$ been received in all these cell$_s$ and what action ha$_s$ l^{iee}n taken on them.

SHRl K. P. SINGH DEO: I do not have the figures with m$_e$ as to how many compIaints each cell has received: but I can ask tins information from the States and provide this to the hon. Member far his information. About raids also, it is the same position. We have to ask the States as to how many raids have been conducted and how much has been recovered and what is the out-turn or output out of tlie raids.

i MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.